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EDWARD N. BONNER
SHERIFF-CORONER-MARSHAL

STEPHEN L. D'ARCY
UNDERSHERIFF

PRESS RELEASE

DATE/TIME OF RELEASE: 4/ 13/ 2001
NATURE RELEASE: Youth in Action
LOCATION OF CALL: North Shore Lake Tahoe and Truckee
RELEASED BY: Sgt. Jeffrey Granum

SHERIFF EDWARD N. BONNER RELEASES THE FOLLOWING:

In recent months a youth-empowering group, Youth In Action (YIA, which is an offshoot of Mothers Against Drunk Drivers (MADD), has been formed in the North Tahoe – Truckee area by interested youth from North Tahoe and Truckee High Schools. An adult advisory panel is made up of Placer County Sheriff's Department Deputies, California Highway Patrol Officers, and teachers from the Tahoe-Truckee Unified School District. The group has quickly grown to over 70 students, one of the largest YIA groups in the country.

Focusing on the goals and objectives of Youth in Action, we want to make a significant difference in our community and state by addressing community attitudes and working to change the norms that imply that underage drinking is acceptable. We are moving ahead with events and projects to meet these goals.

- An Alcohol purchase survey in the Lake Tahoe Basin was done in December 2000 – thirteen locations were surveyed and out of those, two locations sold alcohol without asking for proof of age.
- Two tri-fold, youth-developed information brochures are being designed and will be distributed throughout our community (one for merchants and one for visitors to our area)
- Plans for Spring of 2001 include several alcohol and drug-free events to bring together students and community members. Two such events are Pig Jam, a basketball game between students and law enforcement officers, and "Evening of Stars" recognition program to honor law enforcement, community members, and youth that are leaders in changing community norms regarding alcohol.
- YIA members are doing mentoring for Middle School students.
- Attendance at the National Collaborative Teen Conference July 23-25 in Honolulu Hawaii.
- "Death Every Fifteen Minutes" DUI education program presented at local high schools in Spring 2002
- Student led Peer Court and Truancy Board for first time juvenile offenders.

Our fast-growing YIA group is very excited about all of these projects and events, however we anticipate a need for community support to help fund these worthwhile projects. **All donations to our YIA group and its projects are tax deductible and should be made out to PCSO School Resource Fund / YIA Tax ID #68-0248746.**

For more information on YIA and our projects, please feel free to contact our Youth Coordinator Deputy Melinda Maehler by pager at (530) 215-1064 M-F 8-5 or message phone at Placer County Sheriff (530) 581-6311. All donations can be sent to:

Placer County Sheriff's Department

Attention: Deputy Melinda Maehler

P.O. Box 1710, Tahoe City, CA 96145

The Youth in Action Team would like to thank you for your support.

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SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT WEBSITE @ placer.ca.gov/sheriff.**